

Second FTLA Class Completes Training

The second annual [Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy](#) completes its semester-long program on May 14. The thirty-one faculty involved come from all nine LACCD colleges and represent a wide range of disciplines. They will receive certificates of achievement from the Board on May 26 at West LA College. The presentation will be followed by a celebration for FTLA participants from both years.

Laura Berry, City College.

The purpose of the FTLA is to engage a community of faculty in exploring new methods of teaching and learning, in increasing their skills in new technologies, and in helping them form partnerships that advance these practices. [Laura Berry](#), a nursing faculty member at LACC, talked about changes she made in her instruction, letting go of rushing to “cover the content” and allowing students to discover what they needed to learn. “It’s always a leap of faith when you step back from hurrying to ‘get it all

The Year Downtown: Bond Problems Dominate

Big questions about the district’s future remain, but our key person is now in place. Our new Chancellor, Dr. Daniel LaVista, will begin on August 1, bringing to Los Angeles a wealth of educational experience and knowledge. I look forward very much to working with him. Interim Chancellor Tyree Wieder will continue in an advisory capacity into the early fall and possibly beyond. Meanwhile, Vice Chancellors John Clerx and Gary Colombo are retiring at the end of June. Their permanent replacements will not be selected until Dr. LaVista has determined how he wants to organize his senior staff. The new president at Harbor will be announced in a few weeks, however, with the Pierce presidential selection following a short while after that.

In March I wrote about the three major issues district leadership faced this year: accreditation, the state budget crisis, and problems with our bond program. As for the first, the visits to City, Trade, and East went well, all report, and we’re waiting now for the reports from ACCJC in June. There’s much more to say about the latter two issues.

Budget Crisis

The budget situation hasn’t changed very much in the last two months. We’ve had no significant news from Sacramento, with all now awaiting the Governor’s May Revise, due out this week. The latest word from our lobbyist is that community colleges are likely to be offered funding close to his proposal in January, which included 2% growth. There are several reasons to doubt this will

done' to making (students) kind of actively learn, and I think it's working for me." Adds Betsy Manchester, chair of LACC's nursing department, "For the first time everyone passed (not only Laura's exam but also) the PEDs exam....I can't help but think that the techniques that Laura is giving the students are really carrying through...There really is a significant change."

An integral element of this year's FTLA is a classroom action research project. Many of them focused on [collaborative learning](#), especially the use of social media such as Facebook, as an instructional tool.

The FTLA is a key component of our Student Success Initiative and is a joint effort of the District Academic Senate and district administration. The next class will begin in January 2011, so watch for applications in the fall. Questions or comments should be directed to Deborah Harrington, dharrington@email.laccd.edu.

--Brad Vaden and Daryl Kinney

College News

stick over the long haul, however: 1) the state deficit is still around \$20 billion, as anticipated tax revenue did not materialize; 2) there will be no federal stimulus money this year, 3) the state can't borrow any more funds, and 4) Democrats are loath to agree to further drastic cuts in health, welfare, and K-12, after all three were hit extremely hard last year.

As a district, we will still have a healthy balance at the end of this year, some \$60 million, or 11% of our operating budget. This is due to cutting 6,000 sections district-wide and to the switch in health plans. But it is also due to colleges cutting deeply into categorical programs, far more than was anticipated last summer. In fact, they've cut some \$20 million (30% of the total). Whether or not we will restore some of these cuts remains unclear--there are competing pressures--though they have had a devastating effect on our student success efforts. Student success is the whole point of our work, so we need to think long and hard about this.

At this point, we do not have a detailed plan in case we take a further hit. We are committed not to offer any summer sessions in June, and we know that we don't want our enrollment to go beyond base, which is 102,000 FTES. This year, however, we set a similar target, and we ended up at 108,000. This is being accomplished largely through your willingness to fill your classes far beyond the norm. Our district class average is up from 33 in 2006 to 41 this semester.

Bond Problems

Persistent problems with the bond program, dealing mostly with consultants and energy proposals, have preoccupied the Board over the last several months. Likewise, the Bond Steering Committee and the Energy Oversight Committee have been deeply engaged in trying to find solutions. In March, our bond counsel, Lisa Wells, surprised the Board by arguing that a number of non-construction projects being paid by Measure J money, including PR, outreach, and education, were not legal

City

We just had our follow up visit from the ACCJC and the exit interview was glowing. Dr. Judy Miner, the team chair, and Professor Virginia May, now a member of the commission, both said they were extremely impressed with both the amount and quality of the work that had been done by the college. They were particularly impressed with the work done on program review. This incredibly successful visit was the result of a clear commitment from the college to not only address the specific recommendations of last year's report but to put in place systems that will allow the college to fully engage in the process of "continuous quality improvement." We could not be more pleased with the outcome of the follow up visit. Whew!—Ken Sherwood

East

We have engaged in the design build process for our new Student Success Building, which will house English, Speech, Foreign Language, Chicano Studies, and others. Three finalists

under the terms of Prop. 39. In addition, Capstone Group, the firm hired in the fall to do an audit of the entire program, made a number of recommendations, chief among them that an Inspector General be hired and a whistleblower complaint plan be established. The Board agreed, and bids for the IG position are now being solicited. Capstone also suggested a review of all bond expenses going back at least three years and a review of hiring procedures, given that it is clear now that some consultants have been paid exorbitant salaries, and others were not qualified. (For a full report on their recommendations, see my March 10 Board Report, www.laccd.edu/das.)

The Energy Oversight Committee was formed by Chancellor Drummond early last year out of concern that Larry Eisenberg's alternative energy proposals were going to be extremely costly. After an extensive examination, it concluded last fall that a number of them, such as hydrogen fuel cell systems, are not appropriate for campus use. In recent months it has focused on his financing projections. Eisenberg has persistently claimed that with the full use of available leveraging opportunities we could build some five times the number of energy projects than could be built through outright purchase. That turns out to be wildly off base. Our finance analysts have agreed that 40% leveraging may be possible, but nothing close to 500%.

With the imminent selection of an Inspector General, it would seem that the program will now be brought under better control. Dr. LaVista's considerable experience with budgeting and construction will obviously also be invaluable. It has, however, taken a great deal of time and energy on the part of Chancellor Wieder and many others to get to this point, time and energy that could have been spent on academic projects. Don Gauthier and I have represented the faculty on both committees. We felt that we had no choice but to get deeply involved, given the stakes involved. We can't be wasting bond money, and we can't have the profoundly important task of boosting sustainability in the district made even more difficult due to the excessive zeal of

have been selected to compete for the project. Faculty, administrators, and staff have met with the firms for two all-day initial interviews, a new and exciting approach that, I'm told, has not yet been conducted anywhere else in the District. A final interview and selection should be completed in June.—Alex Immerblum

Mission

Los Angeles Mission College is hosting the very rewarding Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy this spring. Ten of our faculty members, including myself, are participating. The college submitted its Accreditation Midterm Report to the ACCJC this March. We hope to have a short respite now until our next self study is due in 2013. For the 2010-11 academic year, LAMC will be hiring a Learning Center Director as well as faculty in several disciplines, including counseling, ESL, Dev Comm, Food Service Management, Music, and Sociology. Finally, Vice President of Administrative Services Karen Hoefel will be retiring in June. We wish her luck in her future endeavors.
—Angela Echeverri

some.

Meanwhile, the LA Times reporters remain omnipresent, and they insist their articles are still coming. I suppose they are, but after ten months, we're beyond thinking about that too much.

This is a bit of a grim report, I realize, but that's the sort of year it's been. I hope yours has been more pleasurable, in spite of the packed classes. Have a great end of term!

--David Beaulieu

Some FTLA graduates with a shy Deborah Harrington.

Academic News

The District Transfer Committee met in December and March with CSU representatives to explore ways we can work together to assist our students in transferring, especially given the recent changes in CSU admission policies. Five of us also attended a May 3-4 CSU conference on reforming general education, with an eye toward further collaboration with them in this area.

An ad hoc group of the District Technology Policies and Practices Committee (formerly known as the Instruction and Student Support Technology Committee) has been busy since March drafting a district technology plan. It will go to the full TPPC later this month. Given the \$120 million set aside for technology in Measure J, this is a crucial project. All colleges

Southwest

LASC is enjoying a period of exciting change, even in light of our budget problems. Faculty are more involved than ever and this is helping the college move forward by leaps and bounds. We are gearing up to prepare our accreditation self-study for our spring 2012 visit and we are excited about being selected as one of the three pilot institutions for the Bridging Research Information and Culture Project, a technical assistance project to help us develop a culture of inquiry. Construction is proceeding at a rapid pace and the campus is expected to be completely built out within the next five years. Also, in an effort to better serve campus needs, LASC is going through a structural overhaul; beginning July 1st we'll have one executive vice president instead of the standard three vice presidents. While it has been a difficult year, we feel optimistic as we end it and prepare for the start of the next.—Allison Moore

Valley

Valley College continues with

have faculty representatives on TPPC, with Wendy Bass of East serving as faculty co-chair.

The Distance Education Committee, consisting of DE Coordinators and other interested administrators and faculty, met for the fourth time on Friday, May 7. Our primary mission is to address the academic and student support needs of DE students. Improved counseling and library services are two main areas of concern.

The Sustainability Institute, mentioned last time, is up and running at long last! George Leddy (Environmental Science, Valley) and Alexis Navarro (Architecture, East) were selected as faculty coordinators. Assisting them will be Lisa Lewenberg from the Center for Excellence, a CTE research program. All three began work in early April and will expand their hours this summer. This will allow us to dramatically expand sustainability education district-wide.

--D.B.

For Further Information...

For the District Academic Senate home page (*Academically Speaking* past issues, board reports, newsletters, equivalency, et al):

www.laccd.edu/das

For the District Budget Committee minutes:

www.laccd.edu, click on Faculty and Staff Services, Intranet, DBC

an ambitious reconfiguration of its shared governance structure, which includes our budget, planning, and other committees. The Big Picture Committee, which includes faculty, administrators, and staff, completed an initial concept which was then approved by the Senate in April. Ongoing efforts to inform faculty continue, with our goal to complete the effort by June 30. On the Measure J front, our Master Plan Committee and many of the Builder User Group leaders met with Steinberg Group, our campus architects, to review the design build process and the development of a campus criteria document. Two town halls last week provided faculty and staff with the latest news on projects and progress. The first project may be a new parking structure.—Don Gauthier

West

In a spirit of open dialogue, the Senate organized a series of Faculty Forums this year. Our April event featured a review of the success of our student athletes. Seventeen received scholarships to four-years colleges last spring, with six more transferring with scholarships last fall. I welcomed the

For the Bond Steering Committee minutes:
www.laccdbuildsgreen.org (linked to
www.laccd.edu), click on About, Oversight...

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2009 Project Match Interns, with a sleepy DAS present.
A new class of fifty begins June 4. Over 400 applied this year.

faculty, and Steve Aggers, our Athletic Director, and Jawell Samilton, our Athletic Counselor, made the presentation. The two of them were the key to turning around our athletic program. The forums have proved a popular way for faculty to mix. Yvonne Simone, Senate Treasurer, serves as the host.--Rod Patterson